

from 3 to 6 phr, a blowing agent that provides for formation of the cellular structure and a vulcanization system,

forming the rubber composition after thermomechanical working into a cross-linkable expandable support blank,

curing the blank in a mold followed by demolding the cured blank, and

expanding by decomposing the blowing agent and vulcanizing the cured blank

[support being capable of being mounted on a wheel rim within a tire], said support comprising [a diene elastomer having a molar ratio of diene units of less than 15%,] a reinforcing filler comprising silica in an amount of from 10 to 30 phr and a blowing agent in an amount greater than 2 phr.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) A cross-linked expanded elastomeric safety support capable of being mounted on a wheel rim within a tire and having a cellular structure comprising closed cells obtained by a [the] process [of Claim 1 or 2,] comprising

kneading by thermomechanical working a rubber composition comprising a diene elastomer having a molar ratio of diene units of less than 15%, water in an amount of from 3 to 6 phr, a blowing agent that provides for formation of the cellular structure and a vulcanization system,

forming the rubber composition after thermomechanical working into a cross-linkable expandable support blank,

curing the blank in a mold followed by demolding the cured blank, and

expanding by decomposing the blowing agent and vulcanizing the cured blank

[said support being capable of being mounted on a wheel rim within a tire,] said support comprising [a diene elastomer having a molar ratio of diene units of less than 15%,] a reinforcing filler comprising silica in an amount of from 10 to 30 phr and azobisformamide in an amount greater than 2 phr.

Claim 12. (Original) The cross-linked safety support of Claim 10 wherein the support comprises the blowing agent in an amount greater than 5 phr.

Claim 13. (Original) The cross-linked safety support of Claim 11 wherein the support comprises azobisformamide in an amount greater than 5 phr.

Claim 14. (Original) The cross-linked support of Claim 10 wherein the diene elastomer is a copolymer of isbutylene and a co-monomer selected from between isoprene and paramethylstyrene.

Claim 15. (Original) The cross-linked support of Claim 11 wherein the diene elastomer is a copolymer of isbutylene and a co-monomer selected from between isoprene and paramethylstyrene.

Claim 16. (Cancelled)

Claim 17. (New) The cross-linked expanded elastomeric safety support of claim 10 wherein said rubber composition further comprises a reinforcing filler comprising silica in an amount of from 10 to 30 phr and carbon black.

Claim 18. (New) The cross-linked expanded elastomeric safety support of claim 11 wherein said rubber composition further comprises a reinforcing filler comprising silica in an amount of from 10 to 30 phr and carbon black.

Claim 19. (New) The cross-linked safety support of Claim 17 wherein the support comprises the blowing agent in an amount greater than 5 phr.

Claim 20. (New) The cross-linked safety support of Claim 18 wherein the support comprises azobisformamide in an amount greater than 5 phr.

Claim 21. (New) The cross-linked support of Claim 17 wherein the diene elastomer is a copolymer of isbutylene and a co-monomer selected from between isoprene and paramethylstyrene.

Claim 22. (New) The cross-linked support of Claim 18 wherein the diene elastomer is a copolymer of isbutylene and a co-monomer selected from between isoprene and paramethylstyrene.

Claim 23. (New) The cross-linkable blank according to Claim 8 wherein the diene elastomer is a copolymer of isobutylene and a co-monomer selected from between isoprene and paramethylstyrene.